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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

THE REPEOPLING OF IRELAND.

WHILE the familiar struggle of the Irish against the English continues to be in evidence wherever there are Irishmen, things have arrived at the pathetic stage in Ireland. To the stranger entering Dublin or Belfast it looks as if the island that had given letters to England had been re-peopled by Britons. In every business thoroughfare the names that meet the eye are suggestive of England, Scotland, and Wales. The admixture of French, German, Italian, and Spanish names, so common in England, is reproduced apparently in the same proportions.

When one takes up the leading daily newspapers enough is found to corroborate the opinion that the re-peopling is an accomplished fact. In a recent issue of a Dublin journal, *The Irish Times*, there appeared in the advertisements 325 names—English, Welsh, Scotch, French, German, Italian, and Spanish—to 55 Irish names.

The owner of the leading Irish newspaper was born in Scotland, Sir John Arnott, Baronet, and the name of the founder, Knox, is associated with a stirring period of Scottish religious history in the sixteenth century.

In the leading directory of Ireland—Thom's—there is found an abundance of material in favor of the same line of thought. The lists of land-owners, magistrates, Protestant clergymen, and veterinary surgeons make poor account of distinctively Irish names. In the manufacturing districts of the country the paucity of Irish names is remarkable. From one end of the island to the other the great industries, with few exceptions, are operated by men whose names are not Irish.

The sprinkling of Irish names is large in the medical list. When the pages devoted to the Roman Catholic Church are examined the Celt comes into greater prominence. Most of the bishops have Celtic names. In the ranks of the clergy the Macs and the O's are numerous, but there are many names that would not be out of place in the English Church directory, *e. g.*, Curoe, Knaresboro, Warren, Watterson, Rogers, Pye, Hanna, Russell, Lee, Dawson, Barton, Hope, Everard, Wheeler, Harold, Wyer, Hayden, Grey, Gray, Jones.

English is the language of the country. It is taught in the public schools, and, with rare exceptions, exclusively spoken in the homes. Very few of the Roman Catholic clergymen in English-speaking Ireland are capable of preaching in the mother tongue, and even if they were, fewer still would be able to understand them. Within fifty years a great change has taken place in regard to the Irish language. Protestants and Catholics formerly knew something of it. At the popular watering places along the southwest coast, the children prattled in Irish and Irish was the language

of the army of donkey-boys and bathing-box women. Now the donkeys are cudged by boys who use the English language and the younger bathing-box women are recognized for natives by the sweetness and softness of the "brogue."

In some of the remoter rural districts of Connaught, Munster, and Ulster, Irish is still spoken, but in the commercial and manufacturing centres it is virtually a dead language.

The leverage won by the late C. S. Parnell induced the English government (Conservative) to build some light railways through the Irish-speaking counties and these will prove potent Anglicizing agencies. An effort is made through a central society in Dublin to promote a love for the old tongue, but the results thus far do not indicate much of a success. The Christian Brothers, a worthy body of Roman Catholic educators, have taken the matter in hand also. Irish manuscripts of priceless value are safeguarded by Trinity College and the Royal Irish Academy at Dublin. Outside the narrow circle of the antiquary they do not excite much interest. The descendants of men who were established in Ireland at the point of the sword find no attraction in documents that relate to a period of the country's history when it had no connection with England. It matters little to them that a greater number and variety of antique golden articles of remote age have been found in Ireland than in any other part of Northern Europe, or that the majority of the gold antiquities, illustrative of British history, now preserved in the British Museum, are Irish.

Many schemes have been favored by the British government for the re-peopling of Ireland. Colonies composed of German and French Protestants received special inducements, and the doors were thrown wide open to the English, Scotch, and Welsh farmers to settle upon the richest valley lands. It is due to this policy that the most fertile and prosperous parts of Ireland are occupied exclusively by English-speaking people.

After emigration became general the natives poured out in a continual stream to the United States, Canada, Australia, and to England, Scotland, and Wales. For a century Ireland has been growing in attraction as a field for settlement by natives of Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain. In the midst of the outcry against English injustice new blood has been flowing into the country from many lands. This tide has been most remarkable during the two famine periods since 1841. According to the census of that year there were in Ireland 23,861 persons who had been born elsewhere. Of this number 14,684 were natives of England and Wales, 5,848 of Scotland, and 3,329 foreigners of different nationalities.

The census of 1891 shows an increase of nearly 47,000 in the total number of persons born out of Ireland. The number of natives of England and Wales had increased to nearly 50,000, of Scotland to over 6,000, and of foreigners of different nationalities to nearly 15,000. In sifting the information from the census one finds that Dublin county and city received nearly 6,000 more than Antrim of the settlers from England and Wales, 688 more from Scotland, and 1,339 more foreigners. Judging from the reputation of Belfast, this will be a surprise to those who have been accustomed to think that the northern capital contains the only loadstone in Ireland. The County of Cork followed closely on Dublin, and the County of Kildare closely on Cork. All three have drawn a larger number of new settlers than Antrim. The shares of the rest of the counties were very much alike. Fifty thousand of an increase in the "outlander" population would mean almost nothing in the

United States, but in the little bit of territory which includes the English-speaking portion of Ireland it meant a great deal. The Jewish population has largely increased also. This must be regarded as a sign of prosperity, for as a rule Jews of mercurial temperament don't change from one country to another for climatic reasons.

The English-speaking people of Ireland, friendly to England, have scored heavily on the side of intelligence. They are Irish by reason of birth, as the descendants of the English in the United States are Americans. From them have come some of the most eminent poets, essayists, historians, novelists, orators, lawyers, astronomers, explorers, preachers, soldiers, and sailors that the world has ever known.

Among poets, essayists, historians, and novelists, Swift, Goldsmith, Sterne, Burke, Moore, Berkeley, Lecky, Bryce, Charlotte Bronte, Maria Edgeworth: among dramatists, Sheridan, Knowles, Boucicault: among musical composers, Balfe, Wallace: among men of science, Thomson (Lord Kelvin), Tyndall: among astronomers, Lord Rosse, Sir Robert Ball: among Arctic explorers, Maclure, McClintock: among lawyers, Whiteside, Fitzgerald, Cairns, Russell: among soldiers, the Duke of Wellington, conqueror of Napoleon; Viscount Beresford, Lord Gough, Lord Wolseley, Lord Roberts.

In the long roll of diplomats the most distinguished for a century have been men of Irish birth and British lineage, including the Marquis of Dufferin.

At this moment the Inspector-General of the Navy, the ablest generals in the service of England—Lord Roberts, Lord Wolseley, Commander-in-Chief of the Army—and Lord Russell of Killowen, Lord Chief Justice of England, are Anglo-Irish.

An interesting fact in connection with the recent "Irish Race Convention" at Dublin was that among the delegates there were 151 who could not be identified with Ireland by reason of their names.

Moses Cornwall, Irish born, representing a section of his countrymen resident in South Africa, was a prominent figure. Without an explanation no one would have thought of him as Irish, no more than they would of identifying with the Green Isle Delegates Buist, Silk, Dobie, Ruane, Bulhert, Rockett, Bonfield, Engledow, Marel, Millard, Charrelton, Verling, Beechinore, Torish, Lundon, Nanetti, Callachor, and Capstick.

One of the mistakes made by Irishmen who are in the fight against England is in supposing that the drain on the Celtic population would be stopped if legislative independence were granted.

With a greater number of Celtic Irishmen out of Ireland than in Ireland, the tendency must ever be to draw the flower of each generation to other lands. It would be a heart-breaking termination of the struggle of the agitators if the Home Rule flag should float at last over a thoroughly Anglicized Ireland.

GEORGE HENRY BASSETT.

WOMEN AS CENTENARIANS.

WHAT will surprise most of those who investigate the subject of long life for the first time is the statement that women exceed men to such a great extent. A group of people cited by one of the most careful and least credulous of the numerous English authors of works on the subject, shows that out of 66 persons who were a hundred years old and upwards, there